UNPUBLISHED

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT

-		
	No. 17-6377	
TAVON HILTON,		
Petitioner - Ap	ppellant,	
V.		
DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMI	ENT OF CORRECT	IONS,
Respondent -	Appellee.	
Appeal from the United States D. Norfolk. Mark S. Davis, District J.		
Submitted: July 25, 2017		Decided: August 4, 2017
Before GREGORY, Chief Judge, a	and MOTZ and SHE	DD, Circuit Judges.
Dismissed by unpublished per curis	am opinion.	
Tavon Hilton, Appellant Pro So ATTORNEY GENERAL OF VIRO	•	•
Unpublished opinions are not bindi	ing precedent in this	circuit.

PER CURIAM:

Tavon Hilton seeks to appeal the district court's order accepting the recommendation of the magistrate judge and denying relief on his 28 U.S.C. § 2254 (2012) petition. The order is not appealable unless a circuit justice or judge issues a certificate of appealability. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(1)(A) (2012). A certificate of appealability will not issue absent "a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right." 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2) (2012).

When the district court denies relief on the merits, a prisoner satisfies this standard by demonstrating that reasonable jurists would find that the district court's assessment of the constitutional claims is debatable or wrong. *Slack v. McDaniel*, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000); *see Miller-El v. Cockrell*, 537 U.S. 322, 336-38 (2003). When the district court denies relief on procedural grounds, the prisoner must demonstrate both that the dispositive procedural ruling is debatable, and that the petition states a debatable claim of the denial of a constitutional right. *Slack*, 529 U.S. at 484-85.

We have independently reviewed the record and conclude that Hilton has not made the requisite showing. Accordingly, we deny a certificate of appealability and dismiss the appeal. We dispense with oral argument because the facts and legal contentions are adequately presented in the materials before this court and argument would not aid the decisional process.

DISMISSED